

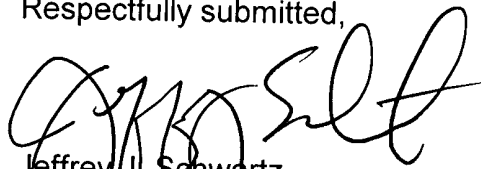
REMARKS

Claims 1-18 in the case are pending. Claims 1-4 and 16-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and (a) as being anticipated by Morris et al. (US 6,531,059 B1). Claim 18 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Morris et al. in view of DiLoreto Jr. et al (US 6,149,803). Claims 1-7 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis (US 6,294,095 B1) in view of McInnis (US 6,200,484 B1). Claims 8 and 12-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis and McInnis, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Autry et al (US 5,480,254). Claims 10-11 and 14-15 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the examiner's indication of allowability, base claims 1 and 12 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependant claims 11 and 15, respectively. These claims are cancelled in the present response. Method claims 16-18 are also cancelled herein.

For all these reasons discussed above, Applicant submits that all of the claims in the case are now in condition for allowance. Such action is therefore respectfully requested at an early date. If the Examiner believes that issues remain for discussion, she is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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